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Report Highlights:

Japan has proposed withdrawal of the maximum residue limits (MRL) for avoparcin (feed additive and veterinary drug). Japan made the notification to the WTO on June 29, 2007.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

Executive Summary

On June 29, 2007 the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) announced proposed changes to the MRLs for avoparcin (feed additive and veterinary drug) to the WTO/SPS committee. The following notification is open for comment within 60 days of circulation by the WTO Secretariat.

Establishment of Standards for the Veterinary Drugs and Feed Additive (Avoparcin) in Food**Purpose**

This activity is to develop specifications and standards for foods. Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law, the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare may establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as "agricultural chemicals") that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed unless such food complies with the established standards. On May 29, 2006 the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food. Basically, all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation based on the system. Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Law. The system aims to prohibit the distribution of any food in the Japanese market place if it contains agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding certain levels specified under the Law.

Outline of the activity**<Feed additive and veterinary drug>**

Avoparcin (synthetic antibacterial) The chemical is categorized as feed additive in Japan but categorized as veterinary drug in some countries. Avoparcin is not permitted for use in Japan. MRLs for the substance were established at the introduction of the positive list, based on Australian standards. At this time the MHLW has decided to withdraw the standards for the substance. This is because Australia has withdrawn its standards recently. In addition, there is no information showing that Avoparcin is produced or used in countries other than Japan. The MRLs for the chemical, appearing in the Provisional MRLs List in tem 7, will be all deleted. After the revision takes effect, the substance will not be permitted to be included in any food, based on the provision of Item 1 in Section A stipulating that food shall not contain any antimicrobial or synthetic antibacterial. For draft MRLs, see Attachment 2-3. [MHLW explained in the May 21 meeting that the reason the drug was withdrawn in Australia has to do with the development of drug resistance.]

Attachment 2-3

Avoparcin (synthetic antibacterial)

Commodity	Draft MRL (ppm)	Current MRL (ppm)
Cattle, muscle		0.1
Pig, muscle		0.1
Terrestrial mammals other than above, muscle		0.1
Cattle, fat		0.1
Pig, fat		0.1
Terrestrial mammals other than above, fat		0.1
Cattle, liver		0.1
Pig, liver		0.1
Terrestrial mammals other than above, liver		0.1
Cattle, kidney		0.1
Pig, kidney		0.1
Terrestrial mammals other than above, kidney		0.1
Cattle, edible offal*		0.1
Pig, edible offal		0.1
Terrestrial mammals other than above, edible offal		0.1
Milk		0.01
Chicken, muscle		0.1
Poultry other than above, muscle		0.1
Chicken, fat		0.1
Poultry other than above, fat		0.1
Chicken, liver		0.1
Poultry other than above, liver		0.1
Chicken, kidney		0.1
Poultry other than above, kidney		0.1
Chicken, edible offal		0.1
Poultry other than above, edible offal		0.1

Note : After the revision takes effect, the substance will not be permitted to be included in any food, based on the provision of Item 1 in Section A stipulating that food shall not contain any antimicrobial or synthetic antibacterial.